

TO: GAETestimony@cga.gov

SUBJ: SUPPORT BILLS 1017 and 6578

Citizen Testimony SUPPORTING

BILL 1017 will

- *Make the absentee ballot drop boxes permanent*
- *Allow for the creation of a digital system so voters can apply online to request absentee ballots and other forms*

BILLS 6578 will

- *Implement automatic voter registration at DMV*
- *Restore voting rights to parolees*

Dear GAE Committee Co-Chairs Senator Flexer and Representative Fox,
Vice Chairs Senator Haskell and Representative Thomas,
Ranking Members Senator Sampson and Rep Mastrofrancesco,
Members of the GAE Committee

I am writing to urge you to make voting in Connecticut safe, secure and accessible by voting YES in Support for bill Number 1017 : **An Act Concerning Election Administration** to make the absentee ballot drop boxes permanent and enable voters to request absentee ballots via an online application and in **SUPPORT** of bill number **6578: An Act Concerning Participation in Electoral Process** for automatic voter registration at the DMV and to restore voting rights to parolees.

Drop boxes were an effective, secure way for me to vote last year. Many of my friends and family really appreciated having the boxes. Not only was it more reliable than dropping it in the mail, but it gave me confidence to know that my ballot would be received for sure the very next business day. Finally, we already have the boxes, so to not use them is simply foolish.

Being able to complete an application for an absentee ballot online is necessary to make voting accessible and to move Connecticut into the 21st Century. Experience in states across the country has clearly demonstrated that voters can safely and securely request an absentee ballot online, rather than having to print it out and mail it in or drop it off in person. These options to be available for all future elections.

I also learned that many states have automatic voter registration where eligible voters are automatically registered to vote at DMV and other government organizations. Our goal should be to get as many eligible voters as possible registered so that they can fully participate in our democracy and exercise their civic duty of voting.

Finally, parolees have served their time and should have their voting rights restored.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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